



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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California Commission on Improving Life Through Service press release

CALIFORNIA WINS RECORD MILLIONS IN AMERICORPS FUNDING, MEMBERS TO PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE IN EDUCATION-BASED PROGRAMS

The majority of the \$25 million in funding will support AmeriCorps members tutoring and mentoring and after school programs in California schools

SACRAMENTO-- The California Commission on Improving Life Through Service (CILTS) was awarded a record \$25.1 million in a national competitive process for AmeriCorps program funding. This award, from the Corporation for National Service (CNS), represents the largest AmeriCorps grant ever made to a state. The majority of these federal dollars will support activities to improve education in California.

As a result of this award, more than 6,500 AmeriCorps members will serve California through the 37 newly-funded community service programs. Over 75 percent of the AmeriCorps members will serve in local communities to address California's education issues, the top priority of Governor Gray Davis.

AmeriCorps members will mentor children, tutor students at-risk of academic failure and provide homework assistance by working with students one-on-one in after school programs. Additional members will prevent child abuse through home visitation and parent education

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projects, rebuild low-income housing and "serve those who have served" by assisting homeless veterans in becoming self-sufficient. In addition, thousands of acres of California's watersheds and miles of backcountry trails will be refurbished and protected. Some members will promote

The California Commission on Improving Life Through Service, which resides within the Governor's Office, is the state's community service commission designed to address the state's most critical social and environmental epidemics.

public safety by creating youth programs that enhance positive social and leadership skills to avoid gang involvement, violence and substance abuse.

All full-time AmeriCorps members receive an education award of \$4,725 for college tuition or to repay existing student loans once completing the program. An estimated \$16.8 million in education awards will be available for California members once they complete the 2000-2001 program year.

An additional \$8.85 million is expected in population-based funding from CNS, for a total of \$33.9 million to support 7,775 AmeriCorps members serving in 57 community service programs. All program grant amounts are for the first of a three-year cycle of funding.

Program grants will be administered by CILTS, the Governor's community service commission responsible for supporting AmeriCorps programs. Last year, CILTS administered over \$15 million in competitive AmeriCorps funds.

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